RULES and ORDERS

OF THE

SOCIETY,

INSTITUTED AT *BATH*,

FOR THE

ENCOURAGEMENT

OF

Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce,

IN THE

COUNTIES of SOMERSET, WILTS, GLOCESTER, and DORSET.

BATH:

Printed by Order of the Society, by R. CRUTTWELL, in St. James's-ſtreet, 1777.

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*Thoſe marked * are Honorary Members.*

N. B. Any Five Members of each Committee to be a Quorum.

INTRODUCTION.

TO promote the good of community by the encouragement of industry and ingenuity; —to excite a spirit of enquiry which may lead to improvements not yet known; —and to bring speculation and theory to the test of accurate experiment, are the grand ends intended by the present laudable and honourable institution.

A desire to introduce into the western counties those obvious advantages which the public have reaped in the several parts of this kingdom, where societies of a similar kind have been formed, first excited the idea of the present establishment; in support of which the spirit of *true patriotism* has distinguished itself with unexampled ardor.

No

Not only a great number of gentlemen of rank, fortune, and ingenuity, in theſe counties, but many in London, and other remote parts of the kingdom, have generouſly contributed to the ſupport of an inſtitution in which the ſubſcribers can have no private intereſt, but which is evidently calculated to promote general and national good.

From the ſpirit and alacrity with which this ſociety has hitherto been ſupported, we have the ſtrongeſt encouragement to hope that numbers will follow the honourable example of thoſe who have already patronized it: And therefore all ſuch are reſpectfully requeſted ſpeedily to favour the ſecretary with their names, that they may appear in the liſt of members, which will be prefixed to the premium books, and publiſhed in January next enſuing.

The principal object of this ſociety's attention will be,

To excite by premiums a ſpirit of emulation and improvement in ſuch parts of huſbandry as ſeem moſt to require it:

To

To endeavour to increaſe the annual produce of corn, by bringing into cultivation, in the leaſt expenſive and moſt effectual manner, ſuch lands as are at preſent barren or badly cultivated, particularly by draining and manuring; and by the introduction of various ſorts of vegetable food for cattle:

To promote the knowledge of agriculture by encouraging and directing regular experiments on thoſe ſubjects which are of the moſt importance to it, by diſtributing rewards to ſuch perſons as ſhall raiſe the largeſt and beſt crops both of natural and artificial graſſes, and the ſeveral ſpecies of grain, on any given quantity of ground:

To encourage planting on waſte lands, raiſing of quick-hedges, cultivating turnips, Scotch cabbages, &c. &c.

To promote all improvements in the various implements belonging to the farmer, and introduce ſuch *new* ones as the experience of other counties has proved more valuable than thoſe generally in uſe:

This

This ſociety's atttention will alſo be directed to all improvements of the machines uſed in our different manufactories, as well as the manufactures themſelves; and to encourage ingenuity, diligence, and honeſty, in ſervants and labourers;

And, to ſum up the whole, every thing that is conducive to the proſperity of the counties of Somerſet, Wilts, Gloceſter, and Dorſet, and the good of the community at large, will be diligently attended to by this ſociety.

N. B. The ſociety's meetings will in future be held the ſecond Tueſday in every month: And all letters relative to the various objects of its attention, directed to the ſecretary, will receive due notice and attention.

RULES

RULES and ORDERS.

I.

THAT a Monthly Meeting, conſiſting of not leſs than Nine Members, ſhall be held on the ſecond Tueſday in every Month, for tranſacting the uſual Buſineſs of the Society; but that no *New Laws* ſhall be made, nor the following ones altered, but at a General Meeting, to be held Annually on the ſecond Tueſday in December; which Meeting ſhall not conſiſt of leſs than Twenty Members.

II.

THAT the Preſident, or, in his Abſence, one of the Vice-Preſidents, ſhall preſide at, and regulate the Debates of all future Meetings; and that the Vice-Preſidents ſhall take the Chair by Rotation.

III.

THAT after the Expiration of the Year 1779, all Committees ſhall be annually choſen at the

General Meeting in December; and the ſaid Committees ſhall be empowered to adjourn from Time to Time, as they may ſee Occaſion: And that on any Vacancy, or Vacancies, (by Death, Removal, or Reſignation) being declared to the Secretary, he ſhall make Report thereof to the next Monthly Meeting, which ſhall fill up ſuch Vacancy, or Vacancies, by appointing a new Member, or Members, to that Office.

IV.

THAT each Committee, when met, ſhall chuſe a Chairman, ſkilled in the particular Buſineſs to which it is appointed; and when ſitting, to enter Minutes of their Proceedings in a Book for that Purpoſe. That all Reports to the Society be made in Writing, and ſigned by the Chairman; and that the Secretary ſhall enter thoſe Reports in the Society's Journal.

V.

THAT an Annual Subſcription of any Sum, not leſs than One Guinea, ſhall entitle a Perſon to be a Member; And that the Names of all Perſons who give Benefactions, not leſs than Half-a-Guinea, ſhall be publiſhed with the Liſt of Members. That a Benefaction, not leſs than Twelve Guineas, ſhall entitle any Perſon to be a Member for Life.

VI. THAT,

VI.

THAT, for the future, any Perſon deſirous of becoming a Member ſhall give or ſend to the Secretary his Name, Place of Abode, and the Sum he intends to ſubſcribe; His Name ſhall then be entered on the Liſt of Members, and his Subſcription ſhall bear Date from the preceding Quarter-Day, and become due again that Day Twelvemonth.

VII.

THAT a Liſt of ſuch Premiums as the Society may think fit to offer ſhall be printed and publiſhed on or before the firſt of January in every year, which Premiums ſhall be claſſed under the ſeveral Heads propoſed to be encouraged by this Inſtitution.

VIII.

THAT no Premium ſhall be offered until it has been firſt propoſed to and approved by a Committee, and agreed to by the Annual Meeting. And no Premium or Bounty ſhall be given to any Candidate, unleſs the Society, at the Annual Meeting, ſhall be ſatisfied that ſuch Candidate deſerves it.

IX.

No Member of the Society, who is a Candidate for any Premium or Bounty, ſhall ſit in any Com-

mittee to which ſuch Matters may be referred, or be preſent while the Subject is under Conſideration; nor ſhall ſuch Candidate be preſent in the Meetings of the Society when the Matter is before them, whether in Debate, or for Determination, unleſs when called in to anſwer ſuch Queſtions as may be put to him.

X.

That all Claims for Premiums or Bounties ſhall be made at leaſt two Months before the Annual Meeting in December: And that ſuch Claims muſt be given in to the Secretary in Writing, and by him preſented to the next Meeting of the Committee to which they relate.

XI.

In order that all Rewards may be diſtributed with the utmoſt Impartiality and Juſtice, the Society ſhall, when they think it neceſſary, deſire the Aſſiſtance of ſuch Gentlemen, Manufacturers, Artiſts, or others, (though not Members) as ſhall be deemed beſt able to judge of and diſcover the Value of any Invention or Improvement for which a Premium is claimed.

XII.

That Premiums ſhall be both honorary and pecuniary; but that no Premium or Bounty ſhall be given

given by this Society to any Perſon who ſhall have obtained a Premium or Bounty for the ſame Invention or Improvement from any other Society.

XIII.

THAT as the principal Deſign of this Inſtitution is, by exciting a Spirit of Induſtry and Ingenuity, to promote the Public Good, the Premiums firſt offered ſhall be more immediately directed to Improvements in Agriculture, Planting, and ſuch Manufactures as are beſt adapted to theſe Counties.

XIV.

THAT until a ſufficient Fund be raiſed for offering pecuniary Premiums, the Society ſhall give *Honorary Rewards* for ſuch Specimens of Ingenuity as they may be favoured with; and that, for this Purpoſe, Silver Medals be ſtruck, expreſſive of the Nature and Deſign of this Inſtitution.

XV.

THAT ſome Premiums be offered for the Encouragement of Induſtry and good Behaviour among Servants in Huſbandry, and Labourers.

XVI. THAT,

XVI.

THAT the Premiums offered in any one Year ſhall not exceed two-thirds of the Fund in Hand, at the Time the ſaid Premiums are offered by the Society.

XVII.

THAT at the Annual Meeting, to be held on the Second Tueſday in December next, the Society's Caſh ſhall be accounted for by the Secretary, and depoſited as the Meeting ſhall then determine.

XVIII.

THAT in order to encourage the Study, as well as the Practice of Agriculture, &c. &c. Honorary Premiums ſhall be offered for the beſt-written and moſt uſeful original Eſſay on any of the Subjects to which the Views of this Society may be extended, that may be ſent to their Monthly Meetings; the Society to give out the Subjects in their annual Liſt of Premiums: And that ſuch Eſſays as ſhall be approved of at the Annual Meeting be printed and publiſhed at the Expence of the Society. Every Member to have one Copy, and the Reſt of the Impreſſion to be ſold, and the Profits applied to the Society's Uſe; unleſs the Author ſhall think proper

to

to print the ſame at his own Expence ; in which Caſe he ſhall ſend the Secretary as many Copies as there are Members, to be diſtributed amongſt them.

XIX.

That the Authors of ſuch Eſſays ſhall ſend them ſealed to the Secretary, without a Name, but with ſome Mark, correſponding with another Mark on the Outſide of an incloſed ſealed up Paper, in which their Names are written : That ſuch of the Eſſays as are rejected ſhall be left in the Secretary's Hand, together with the correſponding Papers not opened, and if they are not called for, ſhall be deſtroyed at the ſucceeding Annual Meeting.

XX.

A Candidate for a Premium, or a Perſon applying for a Bounty, being detected in any Attempt to impoſe on the Society, ſhall not only forfeit ſuch Premium, or Bounty, but be declared incapable of obtaining any for the future.

XXI.

That the Secretary ſhall procure all ſuch Books and Stationary Ware as are needful for the Society's Uſe,

Uſe, and keep fair Accounts of all Monies received and diſburſed by him: The ſaid Accounts to be ſettled and balanced at each Monthly Meeting in the Society's Caſh-book, where a Committee of Accounts ſhall be appointed to audit them. He ſhall alſo perform the neceſſary Buſineſs of his Office with Diligence and Integrity, *viz.* Attend all Meetings and Committees of the Society;—make all Minutes and Reſolutions, and enter them fairly in the Journal or Committee Books;—read all Letters and other Papers ſent to the Society, and prepare ſuch Anſwers thereto as the Society ſhall direct, and record regularly in the Book of Correſpondence ſuch as are worthy of Preſervation;—ſign all Publications, Notices, and Receipts, and prepare an Abſtract or Annual Regiſter of the Tranſactions of the Society, with particular Accounts of the Improvements made in the various Articles to which its Views are extended, together with ſuch Informations received as appear to be the moſt uſeful and important, and the Reſolutions of the Society thereon;—attend to the Printing of whatever the Society may direct to be printed, and correct the Preſs. He ſhall alſo collect Subſcriptions, and viſit Manufactories, or apply for particular Information reſpecting them when required by the Society ſo to do; and as much as poſſible make himſelf acquainted with the various Arts, &c. &c.

to which the Views of this Society ſhall be directed: He ſhall alſo regularly enter the Minutes, Proceedings, and Reſolutions of each Meeting, for the Inſpection of the next; and that, in Conſideration of his Trouble, and the cloſe Attention he muſt give to this Buſineſs, he ſhall be allowed an annual Salary.

XXII.

THAT on any Emergency the Secretary, with the Concurrence of five Members, ſignified in Writing, and ſigned with their Names, may call an Extra General Meeting, by Advertiſement in the public Papers of the reſpective Counties.

XXIII.

ALL Letters relative to the Buſineſs of the Society, being laid by the Secretary before the Committee of Correſpondence, that Committee ſhall be at Liberty from Time to Time to refer ſuch Letters as they think proper to the other reſpective Committees, without waiting to report them to a Meeting of the Society; *unleſs*, ſuch Letters relate to the granting any new Premium or Bounty.

XXIV.

All the Books, Papers, and Correſpondence of the Society ſhall remain under the Care of the Secretary, to be inſpected by the Members at any reaſonable Time.

XXV.

All Models of Machines and Implements which obtain Premiums or Bounties ſhall be the Property of the Society, and be kept for the Inſpection of Farmers and Manufacturers.

XXVI.

In Caſe any Perſon ſhall be inclinable to leave a Sum of Money to this Society, by Will, the following Form is offered for that Purpoſe:

Item, I give and bequeath to A. B. and C. D. the Sum of Pounds, upon Condition, and to the Intent that they pay the ſame to the Treaſurer, or Secretary, for the Time being, of a Society inſtituted at Bath 1777, who call themſelves "The "Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, "Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce;" which ſaid Sum

Sum of Pounds I will and desire may be paid out of my personal Estate, and applied towards carrying on the laudable Designs of the said Society.

XXVII.

Form of a Letter to Gentlemen whose Subscriptions are in Arrears.

SIR,

I am directed to inform you, that your annual Subscription of has been in Arrear since the Day of : And as it is of Consequence for the Society to know what Sums of Money they can bestow in Premiums, you are respectfully requested to order the Payment of it to the Secretary.

Order of Proceedings at the Meetings.

I.

THE Books of Rules and Orders, of Minutes and Correſpondence, ſhall be laid on the Table, before the Preſident or Vice-Preſident; the Secretary ſitting at his Right-Hand.

II.

NONE but Members to be admitted to the Meetings of the Society, without Leave firſt obtained of ſaid Meetings.

III.

WHEN any Member ſpeaks, he ſhall addreſs himſelf to the Chair; and if two Members ſpeak together, the preſiding Member ſhall call them to Order, and decide which of them ſhall ſpeak firſt.

IV. An

IV.

No Member ſhall, at any Meeting of the Society, ſpeak more than twice on the ſame Subject, without Permiſſion of the Preſident or Vice-preſident.

V.

When any Matter is in Debate, if a Member ſhall ſpeak to New Buſineſs, the preſiding Member ſhall call him to Order.

VI.

No Debate ſhall be entered into, or Queſtion put, on any Motion, unleſs that Motion be ſeconded.

VII.

No Motion that has been rejected ſhall be made again in the ſame Meeting.

VIII.

That in Meetings of Committees the ſame Order be obſerved as in the third Article of the Order of Proceedings in Meetings of the Society.

IX. At

IX.

At all future Meetings of the Society, Buſineſs ſhall be tranſacted in the following Order:

1. The Meeting to be conſtituted by entering the Names of the Members preſent.

2. Minutes of the preceding Meeting to be read, and Reports of Committees to be received.

3. Accounts of the preceding Month, when audited and balanced, to be ſigned by the Chairman.

4. Correſpondence to be read and referred to the reſpective Committees.

5. New Matter to be offered on the ſeveral Subjects in Succeſſion.

By Order of the Society,

EDMUND RACK, Secretary.

IX.

At all future Meetings of the Society, Business shall be transacted in the following Order:

1. The Meeting to be constituted by entering the Names of the Members present.

2. Minutes of the preceding Meeting to be read, and Reports of Committees to be received.

3. Accounts of the preceding Month, when audited and balanced, to be signed by the Chairman.

4. Correspondence to be read and referred to the respective Committees.

5. New Matter to be offered on the several Subjects in Succession.

By Order of the Society,

EDMUND NICOL, Secretary.